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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/725) and the report of the Secretary-General on the estimated requirements for the support account for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/732). The Committee also had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on experience with resident investigators in peacekeeping operations (A/57/494) and on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping activities (A/57/731). During its consideration of these reports, the Committee met with the representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

I. Format and presentation

2. In accordance with paragraphs 6 to 14 of the budget report (A/57/732), an attempt has been made to improve the presentation in results-based format, as requested by the Advisory Committee (see A/56/941) and the General Assembly (see resolution 56/293). One overall objective, instead of the previous 18, has been specified, namely, "to ensure efficient and effective peacekeeping" (A/57/732, para. 9). Four expected accomplishments have been designated for the offices concerned, as set out in paragraph 11 of the budget document. According to information provided by the representatives of the Secretary-General, the indicators of achievement have been reduced from 92 to 56, 11 of them have target

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benchmarks (in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations) and 55 per cent of the outputs have been quantified, compared with the previous 14 per cent.

3. **The Committee welcomes the above-mentioned changes and encourages all concerned in the Secretariat to further refine the presentation in order to make it more user-friendly. In addition, the Committee believes that further improvements should be made. As stated further below, the Committee found, in many cases, the indicators of achievement and outputs to be general and vague. The Committee requests that they be drafted in a way that facilitates monitoring and reporting on performance and that additional efforts be made to provide time frames for the completion of outputs.**

4. **Furthermore, the link between resources, expected accomplishments and outputs should be more apparent (see, for example, para. 83 below). The absence of such links makes it difficult to evaluate the adequacy or otherwise of proposed resources in terms of outputs, expected accomplishments and attainment of stated objectives in a specified time frame.**

5. **As with the budgets for peacekeeping missions, the supplementary information on the support account provided to the Advisory Committee was scattered in several attachments, making it difficult for the Committee to quickly understand what the Secretariat was proposing and the reasons therefor. The Committee requests that, in future, the information provided to it follow the structure of the main budget document and indicate budget variances as well as changes in the content of the results-based framework. Changes in outputs could indicate productivity and efficiency in implementing the budget or inefficiencies in the use of available resources. Such information can be provided to the Committee, in writing, before it starts to examine the budget estimates.**

6. **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the resources presented under the various organizational units of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other organizational units concerned should be comprehensive and consistent, in order to permit scrutiny of trends in resource use, as well as comparison with the estimated resources for the upcoming period. In cases where the Secretariat allocates and manages resources centrally, rather than by organizational unit, the procedure should be applied consistently from one period to another and clearly explained in the proposed estimates.**

7. **The Advisory Committee further notes that the performance report for the support account for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, in the absence of a baseline, is presented in a transitional format, as was done with those for the peacekeeping missions. In the preparation of the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, as well as future periods, the Committee recommends that the reporting on the achievement of expected accomplishments and results be based on the organizational units, in line with the results-based framework contained in the related budget document.**

8. **The Advisory Committee strongly reiterates its views on the need for adequate justification and for clear definition of realistic objectives and attainable expected accomplishments, as stated in paragraphs 8 and 9 and 11 to 13 of its report A/56/941. The Committee trusts that more progress and**

improvements will be indicated in the next submission for the support account. The Committee has also made comments and observations in its general report on peacekeeping operations (A/57/772).

II. Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

9. The Advisory Committee recalls that the total support account resources for post and non-post requirements, approved for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, amounted to $89,749,200 gross ($79,251,300 net), including a total establishment of 687 posts (see General Assembly resolutions 55/271, 56/241 and 56/255).

10. As indicated in the performance report (A/57/725), the expenditures for the period amounted to $84,343,000 gross ($73,328,000 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of $5,406,200 gross ($5,923,300 net) — in gross terms, 6 per cent of the resources approved for the period.

11. The Advisory Committee notes that the unencumbered balance was attributable essentially to the fact that the actual vacancy rate for the reporting period was higher than the budgeted rate. As indicated in paragraph 6 of A/57/725, a vacancy factor of 8 per cent for Professional posts and of 2.5 per cent for General Service posts had been budgeted for the 562 continuing posts approved for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 by General Assembly resolution 55/271. The actual vacancy rates were 9.1 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively. For the additional 125 posts approved for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2002 by General Assembly resolutions 56/241 and 56/255, full incumbency was applied for the 91 posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and a 50 per cent delayed recruitment factor was applied to the remaining 34 posts in other departments and offices. The actual vacancy rate in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was 9.7 per cent, and it averaged 29.6 per cent in the other departments and offices (see A/57/725, paras. 6 and 7). The related savings amounted to $2,531,300, out of resources of $70,039,400 approved for posts.

12. Savings in respect of official travel ($268,400), communications ($353,200) and information technology ($1,789,000) are also shown in section II A and briefly described in section III of the performance report. The Committee's comments on the information contained in the performance report on individual objects of expenditure can be found, where relevant, in the discussion of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 in section IV below.

III. Information on performance for the current period

13. The Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 56/293 of 27 June 2002, approved an amount of $100,896,200 gross ($87,156,900 net) for support account post and non-post resources for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, approving a total staffing establishment of 702 temporary posts.

14. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that expenditures as at 28 February 2003 amounted to $60,511,300 (see annex).

15. Of the 702 posts currently approved (427 Professional, 272 General Service and 3 security), as at 28 February 2003 a total of 643 were encumbered (376 Professional, 264 General Service and 3 security).

IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

16. The Secretary-General, in his report A/57/732, estimates support account resources for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 at $115,863,100 gross ($100,318,500 net), which would provide for the staffing of 761 temporary support account posts.

17. As indicated in the financial resources table in the summary and paragraphs 4 and 5 of A/57/732, the amount proposed, in gross terms, represents an increase of $14,996,900, or 14.8 per cent ($13,161,600 in net terms), over the $100,896,200 gross ($87,156,900 net) approved for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003. Most of the increase is due to the changes in standard salary costs ($4.5 million) and the inclusion under the support account of 27 posts for resident auditors ($3.8 million), previously funded under individual peacekeeping budgets. Other reasons for the increase include the proposal for the establishment of a regional investigator capacity in Nairobi and Vienna ($1.9 million), a resident auditor office in Kuwait City ($0.5 million), additional posts at Headquarters ($2.3 million), upgrading of information and communications technology support ($1.6 million) and training ($0.4 million).

18. The overall resources estimated for posts ($92,162,100) take into account the proposed establishment of 59 additional support account posts. These include 3 new posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, a total of 49 posts in the Office of Internal Oversight Services (27 for resident auditors redeployed from the budgets of peacekeeping operations, 12 for regional investigators in Nairobi and Vienna, 4 for the resident auditor's office in Kuwait, 3 for the Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division and 3 for the Executive Office), and 7 posts in the Department of Management (2 in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, 2 in the Treasury Division and 3 in the Office of Human Resources Management). Two reclassifications are proposed (from P-3 to P-4 in the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and from P-4 to P-5 in the Procurement Division). The Advisory Committee's recommendation on these posts is set out further below.

19. The Advisory Committee further notes that delayed recruitment and staff turnover factors of 6.5 per cent and 3.1 per cent have been applied to continuing posts in the Professional and General Service categories, respectively, and of 50 per cent and 35 per cent for all new posts in the Professional and General Service categories, respectively, in the costing exercise.

20. Resources for official travel are estimated at $4,389,000, an increase of $1,147,500 over the $3,241,500 approved for 2002/03. The Advisory Committee notes that most of the increase in travel relates to the additional resources proposed under the Office of Internal Oversight Services (see para. 71 below). Total travel expenditures amounted to $560,200 during 2001/02. The savings reported for that period ($268,400), indicated in paragraph 12 above, resulted mostly from the fact that requirements related to the surveys on comprehensive and interim salary and

mission subsistence allowance were less than estimated, and to the cancellation of a number of monitoring visits by the Office of Human Resources Management to peacekeeping missions, resulting from the delay in the development of the monitoring frameworks. The Committee notes that the framework has in fact been developed and is presented in the Secretary-General's report on monitoring capacity in the Office of Human Resources Management (A/57/276).

21. A provision of $865,500 is proposed for communications for 2003/04, an increase of 1.1 per cent over the $856,400 approved for 2002/03. Expenditure of $282,000 is reported for 2001/02. An amount of $7,169,600 is proposed for information technology, an increase of $1,645,500, or 29.8 per cent, over the $5,524,100 approved for 2002/03. Of that total, $6,163,100 relates to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (see para. 41 below). Expenditure of $4,462,100 is reported for 2001/02. The savings of $1,789,000 reported during that period were due mostly to the reduced level of maintenance and support services provided to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and utilization of in-house resources for the development of specialized application software (see A/57/725, para. 13).

22. The Advisory Committee has made comments and observations with regard to communications and information technology in its general report on peacekeeping operations and in the individual budget reports of peacekeeping missions. **In this regard, the Committee reiterates the need for clearly identified and properly planned estimates for communications and information technology, as well as the need to take advantage of potential synergies available through cooperation with the Information Technology Services Division.**

23. The $842,500 proposed for general temporary assistance for 2003/04 represents an increase of 33.7 per cent over the $630,000 approved for 2002/03. Expenditure in 2001/02 was $579,600, with savings of $188,700 reported (see A/57/725, para. 8). Most of the increase for 2003/04 results from the related resources proposed for the Department of Management ($192,100). The Committee notes that these resources, which are used to provide support during maternity or extended sick leave, are also used for peak workload services. Combined with the $1,218,300 proposed for consultants (a decrease of $1,907,600 from the amount approved for 2002/03), these resources provide the Secretariat with additional capacity to supplement staff resources allocated from the support account.

24. As indicated above, the total support account resources of $115.9 million proposed for 2003/04 constitute an increase of 15 per cent over the resources for 2002/03 and an increase of 29 per cent over the resources for 2001/02. These figures exclude the resources for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi. As shown in table 1 of the Secretary-General's overview of the financing of peacekeeping operations (A/57/723), the numbers of military and civilian personnel for 2003/04 are lower than for 2002/03, and the budget level is lower. **While the Advisory Committee agrees that a direct link between the size and/or complexity of peacekeeping operations and the level of the support account is difficult to establish, the overall level of financing of the support account and of the Logistics Base is still a matter of concern to the Committee. The Committee is of the opinion that if the decrease in peacekeeping operations were to continue, it would be difficult, during the next period, to justify the current levels of the support account and the Logistics Base.**

25. **At a time when the Organization is investing increasing resources in communications and information technology, as well as in training for peacekeeping activities and support, the Advisory Committee expects that the consequent greater efficiency and productivity in processes and the delivery of services, combined with decreases in peacekeeping operations, should lead to lower demands for staff and non-staff resources, including travel costs for the support account. The Committee has taken this view into account in its examination of the resources for the various units funded from the support account, and its recommendations regarding post and non-post resources are set out further below.**

Department of Peacekeeping Operations

26. The support account resources for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 amount to $77,333,500 in gross terms — an increase of $4,392,100 (6 per cent) over the appropriation of $72,941,400 for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 (see A/57/732, sect. II.A.7 (b)). This is due mostly to changes in standard salary costs, as indicated in paragraph 17 above, and the proposal to establish three additional posts: one D-1 for a chief of the Communications and Information Technology Service (see para. 37 below); one P-5 for a senior gender adviser (see para. 30 below); and one General Service post (ibid.).

27. The Advisory Committee recalls that in accordance with the request of the General Assembly contained in paragraph 18 of its resolution 56/241 of 24 December 2001, the Office of Internal Oversight Services will undertake an evaluation of the overall impact of the restructuring implemented by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on its backstopping of peacekeeping operations, as well as the impact on the efficient and effective use of resources entrusted to it. The report on this matter will be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

28. The Advisory Committee was informed that of the 537 posts currently approved for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (334 Professional and 203 General Service), as at 24 February 2003 there were 46 vacancies (43 Professional and 3 General Service). **The Committee is of the opinion that the delay in filling the D-2 post for the Director of Management in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General and the D-2 post in the Office of Mission Support is unacceptable, and points to the continuing problem of unnecessary delays in the recruitment and placement of personnel. Moreover, it is notable that these delays are fraught with potential negative impacts on peacekeeping missions and on the relevant services of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations itself. The Committee refers to this issue in its general report on peacekeeping operations.**

Office of the Under-Secretary-General

29. The resource requirements for the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations are estimated at $5,368,300 ($174,100, or 3.1 per cent, over those approved for 2002/03). The increase is due mostly to the changes in standard salary costs and the proposal for two additional posts. Other increases, for

official travel and miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment, are explained in paragraphs 28 and 29 of A/57/732. These are offset by decreases for consultants and general temporary assistance.

30. Two new posts are proposed to be established under the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit: a P-5 post for a senior gender adviser and a related General Service post to carry out the functions described in paragraphs 22 and 23 of A/57/732. The Advisory Committee recalls its recommendation against the establishment of the P-5 post until an adequate rationale for it is provided and a more coherent policy is developed (see A/56/941, para. 24). During its consideration of this matter, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping activities (A/57/731). The Committee exchanged views with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and with other representatives of the Secretary-General on the subject. The Committee was informed that the post would enable the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to implement an integrated, coherent gender-mainstreaming programme and relevant activities in peacekeeping missions, in line with the Organization's policy on gender mainstreaming.

31. **While the Advisory Committee agrees that a post should be provided for the gender adviser functions, it is not convinced of the need for it to be at the P-5 level. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the post be set at the P-4 level.** Moreover, the Committee notes that there are currently 21 General Service posts in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, of which 2 are funded under the regular budget. **The Committee therefore does not recommend the establishment of the additional General Service post. Accordingly, non-staff resources for this Office should be reduced by $9,600. In making these recommendations, the Committee points out that the role of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women in gender mainstreaming is still not clear. The Committee intends to follow up on this issue in the context of its regular budget review.**

Office of Operations

32. The financial resources of $8,003,400 proposed for the Office of Operations represent an increase of $501,900, or 6.7 per cent, over those approved for 2002/03. The increase is due to the changes in the standard salary costs. The Advisory Committee notes that the Office has a staffing table of 79 posts, of which 60 are funded from the support account (45 Professional and 15 General Service) and 19 from the regular budget (14 Professional and 5 General Service).

33. **The Advisory Committee noted minor changes in the results-based framework vis-à-vis the presentation contained in the previous Secretary-General's report (A/56/885). Only 14 outputs, rather than 16, are indicated in A/57/732. However, these are so general and at such a high level of aggregation as to limit the understanding of the link between the proposed resources and the results-based framework. The Committee requests that greater efforts be made in the next submission to better justify the resources for the Office of Operations.**

34. The Advisory Committee was informed that non-post resources for the Office of Operations are accounted for centrally, as part of the resources allotted to the Executive Office of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. A provision for

$50,000 is proposed for official travel, which is the same amount approved for 2002/03. The Committee was informed that expenditures as at 15 March 2003 amounted to $30,800.

Office of Mission Support

35. The Advisory Committee recognizes the attempt to be more specific about outputs and indicators of achievement in the results-based presentation of the Office of Mission Support. This improvement should be enhanced in the context of the next submission for the support account. In this connection, however, the Committee notes that the presentation for the Office of Mission Support for 2003/04 groups its two divisions together (the Logistics Support Division and the Administrative Support Division), whereas the budget report for 2002/03 (A/56/885) presented the resources separately. **The Committee is of the view that a consistent presentation from budget to budget is desirable, since it enables trends in staff and non-staff resources to be assessed (see para. 6 above).**

36. The resources proposed for the Office of Mission Support amount to $40,014,300, an increase of $1,901,100, or 5 per cent, over the resources approved for 2002/03. The increase is due to additional requirements of $2,175,600 (6 per cent) for posts, in view of the changes in standard salary costs and the proposal for one new post, making a total of 332 support account posts. The increase for posts is offset by a decrease of 29.3 per cent for consultants, in view of the completion of outputs in the Personnel Management and Support Service, and of 11.7 per cent for miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment (see A/57/732, sect. II.A.3(c)).

37. The functions of the proposed additional post of chief of the Communications and Information Technology Service are indicated in paragraph 34 of A/57/732. **For the reasons stated therein, and because of the importance of the functions involved, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal to establish the post of chief of the Communications and Information Technology Service at the D-1 level.**

38. A provision for $750,500, at the maintenance level, is proposed for official travel. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 37 of A/57/732 that this includes $240,000 for attendance at seminars and conferences and $510,500 for training-related travel. **In view of the resources available for attendance at seminars and conferences at the mission and Headquarters level, the Committee recommends reducing resources for that purpose to $100,000 ($140,000 less than the amount proposed). Total resources for official travel would therefore amount to $610,500.**

39. A provision for $203,000 is proposed for miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment (an increase of $27,000 over the resources approved for 2002/03). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the $103,000 requested for the production of training materials. However, the $100,000 requested for "targeted external advertising for key positions within field missions" (A/57/732, para. 39) should be absorbed, since in the opinion of the Committee it represents little more than a contingency provision. Existing facilities of the United Nations should be fully used, including web resources and United Nations offices in various capitals. Total resources under this budget item would therefore amount to $103,000.**

40. The resources proposed for consultants for 2003/04 amount to $598,000 (a decrease of $247,500, or 29.3 per cent, relative to those approved for 2002/03). Details are provided in paragraph 36 of A/57/732. The Advisory Committee welcomes the intention to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of information systems management within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Committee has commented on the need to undertake a review of the many databases that have been or are being developed with a view to ensuring their compatibility and interactiveness and an evaluation of the cost benefits, efficiency and productivity of information systems of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (see A/56/887, para. 62). The Committee requests that in-house expertise be used as much as possible. However, the Committee notes that a provision for $190,000, related to a "global vehicle spare parts management system" (A/57/732, para. 36) is included, for which the basis of the request in terms of person-months is not available, indicating a deficiency in the identification and formulation of needs and requirements. The Committee also questions the need for outside expertise ($25,000) to reconcile posts and functional titles. **Accordingly, and taking into account the expertise that should be available in the Office of Mission Support for the functions described in the table in paragraph 36 of A/57/732, the Committee recommends that $495,000 be approved for consultants ($103,000 less than proposed).**

41. The Advisory Committee was informed that, of the total resources proposed for information technology in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations ($6,163,100), $5,700,500 relates to the Office of Mission Support, and includes the following: $2,402,500 for acquisition of equipment, $498,000 for maintenance and repair of equipment and $2,800,000 for information technology services.

42. The Advisory Committee recalls that the request for 2002/03 amounted to $2,195,030 for electronic data-processing equipment and $2,005,000 for electronic data-processing services, making a total of $4,200,030 (see A/56/885, paras. 37 and 38). The resources proposed for 2003/04 constitute a 26 per cent increase over those approved for 2002/03. The proposed requirements for acquisition of equipment would cover the costs of 27 additional items and 334 replacement items at a total cost of $1,358,000, not including licences and fees ($128,500), software packages ($677,000) and spare parts and supplies ($239,000).

43. The Advisory Committee requested additional information on higher costs for equipment to be acquired than in 2002/03; however, it was not entirely convinced by the explanations provided. **The Committee recommends that the resources for additional equipment (excluding software and licences and fees) be reduced to $1,000,000. The provision for spare parts and supplies should be reduced to $176,000. Total resources for additional equipment would therefore amount to $1,981,500, reflecting a reduction of $421,000.**

44. **The Advisory Committee requests greater clarity in future explanations provided to support requests for communications and information technology. In addition, the Secretariat should clearly indicate those services that cannot be provided in-house, thus requiring external expertise, and those that can be handled by existing staff. This information would allow a better evaluation by the Committee of the relevant resources.** In this connection, the Committee noted the savings of $1,536,000 for the Office of Mission Support in the performance report for 2001/02, resulting from the delay in the implementation of an external

service agreement for maintenance support services and the utilization of in-house resources for the development of specialized-applications software. **The Committee is of the opinion that if expertise exists to develop specialized software, it should also be available to provide maintenance support. Furthermore, it should be a matter of policy to ensure, to the extent possible, that the development and implementation of new applications are accompanied by adequate training not only for users, but also for those who are to maintain the applications. Accordingly, the Committee encourages the use of in-house expertise in the area of development, implementation, maintenance and support of information technology, whenever possible in cooperation with the Information Technology Services Division.**

45. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes the explanation contained in paragraph 53 of A/57/732 as to the $2,800,000 provision for information technology services for 2003/04. The Committee believes that the extent to which this amount would be spent depends on progress achieved in the development and implementation of the various applications indicated therein. The Committee was informed, for example, that the Integrated Management Information System was deployed in 10 missions as at December 2002 and that five more missions would be covered by June 2003. The Committee was also informed that progress, to varying degrees, had been made in the development and implementation of the other systems referred to in paragraph 54 of A/57/732. For example, phase II of the E-STARS application would be released during the first quarter of 2004.

46. The Advisory Committee has noted in the past that the implementation and release of information technology applications are subject to frequent delays. In such cases, savings on costs, such as for maintenance, testing and implementation support, tend to arise. **Moreover, the Committee is of the opinion that, with the downsizing of missions such as the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), it would not be prudent to expand communications and information technology investment beyond what is required to effectively implement current and short-term needs.**

47. **Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee sees no justification for requesting resources for electronic data-processing services that are far in excess of what was estimated for 2002/03. The Committee recommends, therefore, that the request for services be reduced to $2,000,000 (a reduction of $800,000).**

Military Division

48. The Advisory Committee notes that the results-based framework for the Military Division shows three expected accomplishments and 20 outputs (the submission for 2002/03 indicated 24 outputs). The Committee notes that while some outputs are repeated, others appear to have been omitted, such as the "automated processes and standardized procedures for management and administration of individual rotations and repatriations" (A/56/885, table 14). In this regard, the Committee was informed that the process has been completed and is currently in use; hence, no provision has been included for 2003/04.

49. The Advisory Committee notes from section II.A.4(b) of A/57/732 that no change is proposed for the number of support account posts: 79 posts (61 Professional and 18 General Service). In addition, 4 regular budget posts (2 Professional and 2 General Service) are proposed. The increase of 5.7 per cent in the total resources proposed, as compared with those approved for 2002/03 is due mostly to the changes in salary costs. The Secretary-General, however, is proposing to establish an "Inspector General capacity within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations" in order to "provide the Under-Secretary-General with an assessment and internal evaluation mechanism" (A/57/732, para. 43). The cost of the individual experts would be funded from consultancy funds ($35,000, as indicated in A/57/732, para. 41) on an "as and when employed" basis.

50. The Advisory Committee noted also the request in the context of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for three posts related to the undertaking of oversight functions with regard to military aspects of peacekeeping (see A/57/732, para. 62, and para. 59 below). The Committee was informed that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations "inspectors" would report directly to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, whereas Office of Internal Oversight Services staff would report directly to the Under-Secretary-General for Office of Internal Oversight Services.

51. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the $35,000 as special consultancy funds for the Military Division, for the functions explained in paragraph 43 of A/57/732. The Committee notes that the services sought in the Military Division are in the nature of internal evaluation and assessment of military operations by military experts, rather than inspection services in terms of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994. The term "inspectorate" or "inspector general" does not appropriately reflect the intended use of the consultancy funds and thus should not be used. The Committee is of the view that the establishment of the Office of Internal Oversight Services obviated the need to establish separate "inspectorates" in various Departments of the Secretariat.**

52. The Advisory Committee recalls that $1,753,000 was requested for the Training and Evaluation Service for 2002/03 (see A/56/885, para. 42 and table 16). However, training does not even appear as an object of expenditure in the overall resource table for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (see A/57/732, sect. II.A.7(b)). The Committee was informed that $1,753,000 — the same amount approved for 2002/03 — would be required for 15 activities to be conducted during 2003/04. The related resources are included under the categories of consultants ($42,000), travel ($1,061,000) and miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment ($650,000). **The Committee stresses that training is a priority activity in all peacekeeping missions, as well as in the context of the support account, and that resources requested for training should be presented in a planned, consolidated and transparent manner.**

53. The Advisory Committee notes that training in support of national, regional and international institutions was estimated at $990,000 for 2002/03 and at $971,000 for 2003/04 in the additional information provided to the Committee. The Committee stresses the need to accord this type of training greater effort and priority in implementing the training activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

54. The Advisory Committee noted that 19 training activities were conducted during 2001/02, while it was not possible to fulfil 3 requests (see A/57/725, sect. IV). However, no information on the total cost for the period is included in the performance report. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the total cost for the period was $883,646 (the appropriation was $880,500). **The Committee requests that future performance reports on the support account include information on training activities, as is being provided in performance reports for peacekeeping missions.**

55. The Advisory Committee was also informed that expenditures for the period 2002/03 as at 13 March 2003 totalled $594,859. However, in view of the events planned for the period from March to June 2003, it was expected that the balance of the appropriation would be spent. **Despite the information received, the Committee is not convinced that the balance of $1,158,141 can be entirely spent in the remainder of the period ending 30 June 2003.**

56. **Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of an amount of $1,500,000 for training (a reduction of $253,000).**

Non-staff costs of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations

57. The overall requirements of $11,328,300 for non-staff resources for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations are summarized in section II.A.7 (b) of A/57/732. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that in its analysis of the proposal for those resources, it has recommended a total reduction of $1,826,600, which includes $9,600 under the Office of the Under-Secretary-General (see para. 31 above); $140,000 for official travel (see para. 38 above); $100,000 for miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment (see para. 39 above); $103,000 for consultants (see para. 40 above); $1,221,000 for information technology (see paras. 43 and 47 above); and $253,000 for training, which comprises $153,000 for official travel and $100,000 for miscellaneous services and equipment (see para. 56 above).

Office of Internal Oversight Services

58. The support account resources proposed for the Office of Internal Oversight Services for 2003/04 amount to $9,386,900, reflecting an increase of $6,841,000 over the resources of $2,545,900 approved for 2002/03. The Advisory Committee notes that most of the increase results from additional requirements for posts ($5,720,300) and for official travel ($751,500), in view of the proposal to redeploy the 27 resident auditor posts previously budgeted under peacekeeping missions.

59. It is proposed that support account posts increase from 16 in the 2002/03 budget to 65 for 2003/04. The changes proposed include the following: the transfer of the 27 resident auditor posts approved for peacekeeping operations for 2002/03 (four P-5, seven P-4, six P-3 and ten General Service) for consolidation under the support account budget (see A/57/732, paras. 58-62) and the establishment of 22 new posts. These include four posts (one P-5, one P-4, one P-3 and one General Service (Other level)) for an Office of Internal Oversight Services resident office in Kuwait to strengthen audit coverage in the Middle East; 12 posts (two P-5, four P-4, four P-3 and two General Service (Other level)) to establish regional investigation capacity in Nairobi and Vienna to cover peacekeeping missions in Africa and South-East Asia, and in Europe and the Middle East, respectively; three posts (one P-5,

one P-4 and one P-3) in the Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division to enable oversight functions with regard to military aspects of peacekeeping operations; and three posts (one P-3 and two General Service (Other level)) for the Executive Office to manage the human and financial resources funded from the support account.

60. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the specific and concise content of the results-based framework for this Office and the use of target benchmarks. Future performance report information should therefore concentrate on the extent to which units and the Office as a whole have attained their respective expected accomplishments.**

61. The 27 resident auditor posts to be consolidated under the support account are shown and described in paragraphs 58 and 59 of A/57/732. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed consolidation is in line with the views expressed by the Committee regarding the need for the Office of Internal Oversight Services to have better control of the recruitment, administration, supervision and evaluation of the performance of the resident auditors with a view to optimizing the use of this service in field missions. In this connection, the Committee reiterates the comments it made in paragraphs 48 to 52 of A/56/887.

62. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposal to transfer the 27 resident auditor posts for consolidation and funding under the support account for 2003/04. This recommendation, however, is made on the understanding that whenever a mission's mandate is terminated, the number of audit posts should be adjusted accordingly.**

63. **As to the audit capacity proposed to be established at the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), for which four new posts are requested, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion, in view of current circumstances, that the request should be suspended for the time being. In the meantime, audit services should continue to be covered as hitherto.**

64. As indicated in paragraph 59 above, it is proposed that 12 posts be established for a regional investigation capacity in Nairobi and Vienna to cover peacekeeping missions. The details for this proposal are included in A/57/494, and the related comments of the Advisory Committee are contained in its general report on peacekeeping operations. The Committee has previously stated that "investigation is by nature a reactive function and that the structure for this function need not be a mirror image of the function of resident auditors" (A/56/887, para. 55). Moreover, UNMIK and UNMISET, which have accounted for a large number of investigations in recent years and have resident investigators on board, are implementing plans for downsizing.

65. From the additional information provided, the Advisory Committee believes that there is a need for the Office of Internal Oversight Services to continue to refine its methods of workload assessment, including the criteria used to determine cases to investigate. The Committee is also of the view that the data included in the workload assessment, for which investigation resources are requested, should exclude cases that have been reported but referred to management for appropriate action.

66. The Advisory Committee has already agreed with the regional investigation approach (see A/56/887, para. 54). The Committee also recalls that the

Investigations Division currently has 27 posts (18 in New York and 3 each in Geneva, Nairobi and the Tribunals). Under the circumstances, the Committee is not convinced at this stage of the need for all 12 investigation posts. **The Committee recommends approval of four posts (three P-3 and one General Service) for the Nairobi hub. The Committee expects, however, that they will also be used for investigation work elsewhere, as appropriate.**

67. The Advisory Committee discussed with the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services the request for the three posts to enable oversight functions with regard to military aspects of peacekeeping (see paras. 50 and 51 above). The Committee enquired about the possibility of recruiting these individuals on an "as and when required" basis. The Under-Secretary-General informed the Committee that this would not be appropriate, since it was essential to have them as staff members reporting and accountable to him at all times. Such an arrangement would also ensure their knowledge and familiarity with the unique character of the Organization.

68. However, the Advisory Committee was not persuaded by the argument to establish the three additional posts for the availability of full-time military expertise. **The Committee recommends, should the services be required, that the same approach used by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations be followed, whereby expertise is obtained on an "as and when required" basis.** The Committee was informed that from time to time the Office of Internal Oversight Services uses outside expertise for specific aspects of an investigation.

69. **In view of the need to manage the human and financial resources funded through the support account, the Committee recommends approval of two posts (one P-3 and one General Service) out of the three proposed for the Executive Office (see A/57/732, para. 63).**

70. Consultancy resources of $158,700 are proposed for 2003/04, as indicated in A/57/732, section II.C (c). The Advisory Committee is not convinced of the need for the provision of specialized expertise in designing evaluation and inspection exercises, since it is related to the three military experts mentioned in paragraph 67 above. The Committee does not recommend approval of the $28,000 requested for this purpose. **The resources for consultants should therefore be reduced by $28,000, but increased by an amount covering six months of consultancy services for each of the three experts; any additional requirements should be reported in the performance report.**

71. **In view of the recommendation in paragraph 66 above for approval of 4 out of the 12 posts proposed for the regional investigators, the Advisory Committee recommends that the amount of $456,000 in A/57/732, paragraph 68, related to official travel of the regional investigators, be adjusted downward to $137,000. The resources for official travel would consequently be reduced from $841,500 to $522,500. The resources proposed for information technology, communications and facilities and infrastructure should also be adjusted downward, to $65,600, $31,400 and $33,000, respectively. The estimate for consultants should be increased to $329,300, taking into account the recommendation made in paragraph 68 above. The Committee recommends approval of the other non-staff costs (miscellaneous supplies and equipment) as proposed. The net reduction for non-staff costs for the Office of Internal Oversight Services would therefore be $360,000.**

Office of Legal Affairs

72. The resources proposed for the Office of Legal Affairs for 2003/04 represent an increase of $81,900, or 10.5 per cent, over the resources of $777,700 approved for 2002/03. This is due mostly to the changes in salary costs and an increase in travel, as explained in paragraphs 79 and 80 of A/57/732.

73. The Advisory Committee notes the provision for $17,000 for information technology. As indicated in paragraph 83 of A/57/732, this amount includes $9,000 for maintenance of equipment and $8,000 for the replacement of five desktop computers ($1,600 each). The Committee recalls, however, that in paragraph 69 of A/56/885, the Office had requested $12,000 in order to replace five laptop computers ($2,400 each) for 2002/03. The Committee sees no basis for the laptop replacement at present. **The Committee recommends that the provision for information technology be reduced by $8,000.**

74. **The Advisory Committee did not receive adequate explanation for the additional requirements of $17,000 for official travel. The resources for travel should therefore be reduced by that amount, to a total of $13,000. The Committee also recommends against approval of the resources proposed for facilities and infrastructure ($1,000).**

Department of Public Information

75. The proposed resource requirements for the support account related to the Department of Public Information are $387,000, an increase of $85,500 (28.4 per cent) over those approved for 2002/03. The 6.5 per cent increase for staff costs (see A/57/732, sect. II.E (c)) relates to the changes in salary costs for two continuing support account posts.

76. The Committee notes, however, that the Department is requesting resources for official travel, facilities and infrastructure, communications and information technology (ibid.) not previously included under the support account. No reasons are given for this change. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the two posts funded from the support account had been filled as at July 2002 and that resources for non-staff costs had previously been included under the regular budget.

77. The Advisory Committee is not convinced by the reasons provided for two staff from Headquarters to visit missions in order to provide support "in formulating and implementing information strategies and promotional campaigns" (A/57/732, para. 87). The Committee notes that included in the missions to be visited are a number of missions to be downsized. **Under the circumstances, the Committee recommends that the resources for official travel be reduced by $35,000.**

78. **The Committee also recommends against approval of the resources proposed for information technology ($12,600) and for facilities and infrastructure ($400) in paragraphs 89 and 91 of A/57/732.**

Department of Management

Office of the Under-Secretary-General

79. Except for the indicators of achievement and outputs for expected accomplishment 1 for the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, which are somewhat vague, the Committee found the content of the results-based framework for a number of units in the Department of Management to be drafted in a way that facilitates monitoring and reporting on performance. The outputs and indicators of achievement for the Department of Management contain several that are measurable, in contrast with the vagueness in the cases of other departmental units in the budget report for the support account. The Committee expects the performance report prepared for the Department of Management units to be equally specific in indicating the extent to which the outputs and indicators of achievement have been realized during implementation.

80. The omission of expected accomplishment 2 (see para. 11 (b) of A/57/732) from the results-based framework for the Department of Management is due to the fact that it is considered to relate largely to capacity-building in new peacekeeping missions, which applies less to the Department of Management than to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

81. The financial resources proposed for this Office, which includes the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, the Contributions Service and the Treasury, amounting to $1,485,500, reflect an increase of $431,200 (40.9 per cent) over the apportionment for 2002/03. Most of the increase, as seen in A/57/732, section II.F.1 (c), is due to increased requirements for posts ($311,200), including four new posts (one P-4 post for a legal adviser and one General Service post in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, and one P-4 post for a database manager and one P-3 post for an investment accountant in the Treasury).

82. The current staffing table of the Office includes nine support account posts (four Professional and five General Service). The functions of the proposed legal adviser and assistant are indicated in paragraph 94 of the report. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Department of Management receives approximately 120 recommendations a year from the Joint Appeals Board and about 28 from the Joint Disciplinary Committee. The statutory requirement is to respond within 30 days of the date of receiving a recommendation. Delays in responding lead to awards of financial compensation by the United Nations Administrative Tribunal. In this connection, the Committee recalls its observations, made in its report on the administration of justice, on measures to address these delays in the context of the management review to be conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (see A/57/736, paras. 6 and 7).

83. The request for a P-4 post represents a good example of how the need for additional resources could be linked specifically to a measurable indicator of achievement in furtherance of the expected accomplishment of expediting replies so as to ensure compliance with the 30-day limit. **Although this has not been done in the current budget report, in view of the need to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General in this regard, the Advisory Committee agrees with the establishment of the posts for the P-4 legal adviser and the assistant at the General Service level, as requested in paragraph 94 of the budget report. The Committee expects that the performance report will**

indicate with precision the impact of the additional resources on the attainment of stated objectives.

84. However, the Advisory Committee was not convinced by the information provided in paragraphs 96 and 97 regarding the posts for a database manager and an investment accountant. The Committee is of the opinion that the extensive automation of the treasury and investment processes should lead to a reduction in the need for additional staff. **While the Committee does not recommend establishing the P-4 and the P-3 post in the Treasury, it does recommend approval of an equivalent amount of general temporary assistance for 2003/04 to address pressing needs. This issue can be revisited in the context of the submission for 2004/05.**

85. The Advisory Committee notes the provision for miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment of $130,000. As indicated in paragraph 101 of A/57/732, it comprises bank fees for peacekeeping-related operations ($120,000) and training requirements ($10,000). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that these bank fees relate to wire transfers attributable to payroll payments processed by Headquarters, currently absorbed by the regular budget. The Treasury is therefore proposing to consolidate them under the support account budget. **The Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal.**

86. The Advisory Committee also noted, under expected accomplishment 3 of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, the indicator of achievement "20 per cent reduction in wire transfer fees at UNAMSIL, MONUC, MINURSO, UNMIK, UNIFIL, UNFICYP". The Committee was informed that the reduction in transfer fees is to be achieved through the implementation of a special software program (Insight) during 2003/04. The savings for these six missions are estimated at a total of $346,880 (a cost of $7 per wire transfer using the software versus $20 using paper-based instructions). Further savings will be available as other missions implement the software. **The Committee welcomes this development.**

87. The Advisory Committee has made several comments and observations in its general report on peacekeeping operations regarding the excessive fees paid by the Organization for bank charges. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Secretariat would develop a model banking agreement to standardize peacekeeping mission practices, with a view to negotiating lower bank charges with banking authorities where the United Nations operates a peacekeeping mission. **The Committee welcomes this development and requests that, once the model banking agreement has been developed, the lessons learned from its use be applied in all offices and missions away from Headquarters, whether they are peacekeeping missions or not.**

88. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the other non-post resources proposed for the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, indicated in paragraph 99 ($60,000 for general temporary assistance) and paragraph 100 ($30,000 for official travel) of A/57/732.**

Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts

89. The resources proposed for the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, as shown in A/57/732, section II.F.2 (c), amount to $7,781,700, reflecting an increase of $758,400, or 10.8 per cent, over those approved for 2002/03. The

increase is due mostly to additional requirements for posts, in view of the changes in salary costs and a reclassification of one post to the P-4 level, as well as general temporary assistance, official travel and miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment. The staffing component remains at 58 posts (31 Professional and 27 General Service). **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal to reclassify the P-[illegible] post of Chief of the Africa Unit in the Accounts Division to the P-4 level.**

90. The Advisory Committee was informed that while an internal management review had been undertaken in the Accounts Division, there has not been an external review. **The Committee recommends that an external management review of the Accounts Division be undertaken, including the deployment of staff in the light of the use of information technology for this function.**

91. A provision for $310,000 is proposed under general temporary assistance, reflecting an increase of $160,000 over the resources of $150,000 approved for 2002/03, in order to improve the service levels in the Peacekeeping Accounts Section and prevent the creation of backlogs (see A/57/732, para. 107). **The Advisory Committee recommends a reduction by $60,000 of the amount proposed for general temporary assistance.**

92. The resources proposed for official travel and miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment amount to $555,000, reflecting an increase of $290,000, or 52 per cent, over the resources approved for 2002/03. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 109 and 110 that the additional resources relate to training activities to improve the implementation of objective-setting in peacekeeping budgets (two workshops at a total cost of $380,000) and training in budgeting methodology and information technology for the Peacekeeping Financing Division and the Accounts Division. **In view of the comments in paragraph 25 above regarding information technology and travel for management purposes, and taking into account the considerable training that has already taken place concerning budget methodology, the Committee recommends that the amount proposed for these two budget items be reduced to a total of $500,000 (a reduction of $55,000).**

Office of Human Resources Management

93. The financial requirements for the Office of Human Resources Management, as shown in A/57/732, section II.F.3 (c), are estimated at $3,311,100, reflecting an increase of $172,100, or 5.5 per cent, over the appropriation for 2002/03. The increase is due mostly to changes in salary costs and additional requirements resulting from the proposal to establish three new posts: one P-3 post for a psychologist and one General Service post for a secretary in the Medical Services Division, and one P-3 post for a staff counsellor in the Specialist Services Division (an increase of $254,100, or 10.9 per cent, over the post-related resources of $2,329,900 for 2002/03). A description of the functions of these new posts is set out in paragraphs 115 to 121 of the report.

94. **The Advisory Committee agrees with the proposal to establish the post for a psychologist at the P-3 level in the Medical Services Division, in order to assist medical officers at Headquarters in assessing the mental-health status of individuals returning from mission assignments. The Committee is not**

convinced of the need for the proposed post for a secretary at the General Service level.

95. As to the proposed post for a staff counsellor at the P-3 level, the Advisory Committee exchanged views with representatives of the Medical Services Division and the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator. The Committee notes that the Office of the Security Coordinator has resource capacity (at the P-4 level) related to critical-incident stress counselling. Services provided include referral to specialists for further counselling. The Committee also notes the explanation as to the different functions performed by the Office of the Security Coordinator, Department of Peacekeeping Operations staff welfare officers within missions, and the proposed Office of Human Resources Management staff counsellor. However, the Committee is not convinced by the argument that continuity of service to staff rotating between peacekeeping assignments and Headquarters entails the necessity to establish new posts, unless it can be demonstrated that staff services currently available are inadequate.

96. On the basis of this information, the Advisory Committee concluded that the present cooperation and collaboration between the Office of the Security Coordinator and the Office of Human Resources Management should be enhanced and the services of both Offices used to maximum effectiveness before a request is made for another counsellor in the Office of Human Resources Management. **Accordingly, the Committee does not recommend approval of the request for a P-3 post for a staff counsellor.**

97. **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the non-staff costs proposed for the Office of Human Resources Management. However, the Committee expects savings under general temporary assistance, given its recommendation in respect of requested posts.**

Office of Central Support Services

98. The financial resources proposed for the Office of Central Support Services for 2003/04 are estimated at $5,622,400, reflecting an increase of $901,500, or 19.1 per cent, over the resources approved for 2002/03. The increase of $224,500, or 4.8 per cent, for staff costs reflects the changes in salary costs for a staffing component of 44 continuing posts and the reclassification of the post of Chief of the Logistics and Transportation Section from the P-4 to the P-5 level. Increases in non-post resources include additional requirements for official travel and for miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment. **The Advisory Committee recommends against the proposed reclassification.**

99. The Advisory Committee notes that 36 posts (21 Professional and 15 General Service) financed from the support account provide backstopping for procurement-related functions at Headquarters. Out of the 36 posts, 29 (1 P-5, 8 P-4, 8 P-3 and 12 General Service) are in the Procurement Division, involved in field procurement. It appears that the core functions could be performed more effectively and efficiently at the Logistics Base at Brindisi, which interacts with all field missions for various forms of logistics support. Besides, the field missions' annual procurement plans and ad hoc emergency requests could be better analysed, taking into account the availability of functional existing stocks. **The Committee requests a comprehensive examination of the merits of establishing a global procurement**

hub for all peacekeeping missions at the Logistics Base at Brindisi, transferring both post and non-post resources financed from the support account at Headquarters and retaining only a few posts in New York for policy and liaison functions.

100. Section II.F.4 (c) of A/57/732 shows requirements of $250,000 for official travel, reflecting an increase of $205,000 over the resources approved for 2002/03, resulting mostly from the implementation of a field training programme and management review visits by the Procurement Division (see A/57/732, para. 133). Resources for miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment, estimated at $484,000, reflect an increase of $464,000 over the apportionment for 2002/03, as a result of the provision for the development of the training programme in the Procurement Division.

101. **In view of the comments of the Board of Auditors on the issue of procurement training,[1] the Advisory Committee welcomes the emphasis on training for procurement activities and the central role the Procurement Division plays in setting guidelines for field missions in this regard. The Committee welcomes the management reviews planned for several missions (see A/57/732, para. 133). The Committee trusts that the findings will be applied also to those missions for which reviews were not conducted.**

102. The additional requirements of $464,000 for miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment are explained in paragraphs 137 to 139 of A/57/732. The Advisory Committee was further informed that this initiative is part of an inter-agency programme for which the Turin Training Centre of the International Labour Organization would act as project leader. The Committee notes from paragraph 138 of A/57/732 that it is estimated that by the end of the project about 200 procurement staff will have completed the training requirements for certification, creating the potential and incentive for certifying 90 per cent of all procurement personnel system-wide by 2006. In addition, the Committee was informed that once the project was completed the number of persons required to be trained in procurement in peacekeeping missions would decrease.

103. **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal for non-staff resources for the Office of Central Support Services.**

Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator

104. Financial resource requirements for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator are estimated at $1,180,500, reflecting an increase of $85,900, or 7.9 per cent, over the resources approved for 2002/03. Most of the increase is the result of additional resources ($93,000) for official travel over the $75,000 appropriated for 2002/03.

105. The resources proposed are broken down in section II.G (c) of A/57/732. The Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in paragraph 148 of that document, that the increase during the 2003/04 period is due to the conduct of training workshops in five peacekeeping missions (the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, UNIKOM, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus).

106. The Advisory Committee also notes the information provided by the Secretary-General on the utilization of the strengthened capacity of the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator for enhancing the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel (see A/57/711, paras. 68-77). With regard to recruitment for the four additional posts approved under the support account in December 2001 (ibid., para. 68), the Committee was informed that all had been filled as at March 2003. The Committee also enquired about the consultations to delineate the lines of responsibility between the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Security Coordinator. The Committee was informed that these were still ongoing and that the process would end with the evaluation of the United Nations security system to be conducted by mid-2003, the report on which the General Assembly requested to have submitted to it at its fifty-eighth session (see resolution 56/255, sect. VIII, para. 4). **The Committee reiterates the need for a well-defined hierarchical security structure in the field and the need to expeditiously define clear lines of responsibility and accountability in ensuring the safety and security of staff (see A/56/619).**

107. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the resources proposed for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator.**

V. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee

108. The action proposed to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the support account is indicated in paragraph 15 of the performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/725). The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the action proposed by the Secretary-General therein.

109. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of the support account for the 12-month period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 is set out in paragraph 152 of the budget report (A/57/732).

110. **In the present document, the Advisory Committee has made recommendations for reductions that would total $4,371,300 gross ($4,090,800 net). Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve total staffing and non-staffing requirements of $111,491,800 gross ($96,227,700 net) for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. The Committee also recommends that the miscellaneous income of $3,126,000 for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 be applied to the resources required for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 and that the balance of $108,365,800 gross ($93,101,700 net) be prorated among the individual peacekeeping operation budgets to meet the requirements of the support account for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004.**

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/57/5), vol. II, chap. II, para. 120.

Annex

Support account for peacekeeping operations: actual expenditures for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 as at 28 February 2003

(United States dollars)

Category	*Apportionment*	*Total expenditures*
Posts	81 539.6	48 267.4
General temporary assistance	630.0	218.3
Consultants	1 907.6	449.2
Official travel	3 241.5	1 218.9
Facilities and infrastructure	6 355.5	6 196.6
Communications	856.4	532.4
Information technology	5 524.1	3 278.2
Miscellaneous services, supplies and equipment	841.5	350.3
Total	**100 896.2**	**60 511.3**